

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 PC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 OPR-02 DRC-01 /102 W

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R 080618Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHAHR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 136

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL TABRIZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHORRAMSHAHR 0003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IR

SUBJ: DISTURBANCES AT ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND JONDI
SHAHPUR UNIVERSITY

REF: TEHRAN 8619

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING DEC 23 DISCOVERY OF ANTI-SHAH LITERATURE IN
POSSESSION OF STUDENTS, ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (AIT) WAS
CLOSED BY SAVAK. IN APPARENTLY UNRELATED INCIDENT, VIRTUALLY ALL
2,500 STUDENTS AT JONDI SHAHPUR UNIVERSITY ARE BOYCOTTING CLASSES.
IN THE WAKE OF DISTURBANCES AT BOTH SCHOOLS IN EARLY DECEMBER,
THESE EVENTS SEEM AN INDICATION OF INCREASINGLY SERIOUS TROUBLES ON
THE LOCAL UNIVERSITY SCENE. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER AIT STUDENTS BOYCOTTED CLASSES ON DEC 9 AND 10 IN
COMMEMORATION OF 16 AZAR 1341 SHOOTINGS (SIMILAR TO TEHRAN SITUATION
DESCRIBED REFTTEL), THE INSTITUTE RETURNED TO NORMAL ON DEC 11.
HOWEVER, ON DEC 23, SEVERAL STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED BY SAVAK FOR
POSSESSION AND ATTEMPTED DISTRIBUTION OF WHAT AIT SOURCES DESCRIBED
AS ANTI-SHAH, PRO-COMMUNIST PAMPHLETS. BY DEC 24, NUMBER OF
ARRESTS INCREASED TO 10, AND SAVAK ORDERED CLOSURE OF SCHOOL. ALL
STUDENTS WERE SENT HOME, AND DURING SUBSEQUENT DORMITORY SEARCH
MORE PAMPHLETS WERE DISCOVERED LEADING TO ARREST OF 10 ADDITIONAL
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STUDENTS. SAVAK INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AND SCHOOL REMAINS CLOSED.

2. AT JONDI SHAHPUR UNIVERSITY IN AHWAZ, STUDENTS ALSO JOINED BOYCOTT OF CLASSES ON 16 AZAR ANNIVERSARY. STRIKE, WHICH INVOLVED MOST OF THE 2500 STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY, LASTED 8 DEC - 15 DEC. CLIMAXING IN ABORTIVE PROTEST MARCH ON 13 DEC. FEW STUDENTS PARTICIPATED AND MARCH WAS BROKEN UP BY POLICE WITH ALMOST NO VIOLENCE BUT 8-10 ARRESTS. MOST STUDENTS RETURNED TO CLASS BY DEC 15. ON JAN 2, MAJORITY OF STUDENTS AGAIN BOYCOTTED CLASSES, OSTENSIBLY IN PROTEST OVER DEC 13 ARRESTS. SEVERAL INSTRUCTORS FEEL ACTUAL CAUSE FOR SECOND BOYCOTT IS APPROACHING EXAM PERIOD FOR WHICH MANY STUDENTS ARE UNPREPARED. NONETHELESS, SITUATION IS OMINOUSLY SIMILAR TO PROTESTS LAST YEAR WHICH RESULTED IN DEATHS OF SEVERAL STUDENTS FOLLOWING CLASHES WITH POLICE.

3. COMMENT. AIT SITUATION APPEARS MORE SIGNIFICANT OF THE TWO. SCHOOL IS TRAINING GROUND FOR FUTURE LEADERS OF IRANIAN OIL INDUSTRY, AND ANTI-SHAH ACTIVITIES AMONG SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF SMALL STUDENT BODY (250) RAISE QUESTIONS CONCERNING LOYALTY OF THIS HIGHLY SELECT GROUP OF YOUNG IRANIANS. IN GENERAL, DISTURBANCES AT JONDI SHAHPUR AND AIT SEEM TO BE INCREASING IN FREQUENCY AND SERIOUSNESS WHILE GOVERNMENT RESOLVE TO HALT DISSIDENCE STIFFENS. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, POLICE FORCES, UNIVERSITIES, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KHORRA00003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KHORRAMSHAHR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740157/aaaacbjje.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEHRAN 8619
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISTURBANCES AT ABADAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND JONDI SHAHPUR UNIVERSITY
TAGS: PINS, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005